

JAPAN CHRISTIAN ACTIVITY NEWS

LEVEL
ONE

*Published by the Commission on Public Relations
of the National Christian Council of Japan*

CABLE CODE: JAPACONCIL, ADDRESS: CHRISTIAN CENTER, 2, 4-CHOME GINZA, TOKYO, JAPAN

Subscription Rates: Japan ¥1,000; Foreign (Sea mail) \$3.00; (Air mail) \$3.00, plus additional postage.

No. 34

March 1, 1954

NCC FAMILY LIFE MOVEMENT

After Hiroshima and Nagasaki met their sad fate at the close of the Pacific War, it was generally believed in Japan that the after-effect of the atomic bomb would stay for seventy years or so, during which time no plants would grow on the soil hit by the bomb. Whether this statement is true or not is not to be discussed here. It is certain, however, that the after-effect of World War II remains long in Japan and its scar broadens even today. One of the examples is moral deterioration. The traditional code which for hundreds of years was Japan's moral backbone has been totally wiped out as a feudal institution and the principle of democracy has taken its place without being digested. Freedom of this and freedom of that have been claimed without knowing the true meaning of freedom. As a result, there has come a phenomenal increase in broken homes, divorce cases, juvenile crime and sexual maladjustment of teenagers as well as youths.

In order to satisfy the curiosity of people in the matter of sex and to make monetary profit, a flood of books on sex has hit the bookstores. They are widely publicized to catch public attention and to fan the curiosity of the people for more. On the other hand, however, attempts have been made by many earnest leaders to publish literature on sex for the purpose of giving right information and knowledge of sex, viewed from psychological, medical and social standpoints. Nevertheless, such good books on sex and sex education are scarce in number and are not widely known, although church and school leaders are anxious to know about them.

In order to meet the demand of church and school leaders, a "Bibliography of Sex Education" was recently published by the Family Life Movement Committee of the National Christian Council of Japan. The bibliography, made with the assistance of Education Ministry officials lists twenty-five books on sex education, all recommended to parents, teachers, and leaders of youth and church.

In addition to stating the price and size, an evaluation of each book is given. "This bibliography helps me a lot," one Christian social worker remarked, "when I go out and talk to my young folks. They and I can select good books on sex education and read them together." The Family Life Movement Committee is now planning its own pamphlets on Christian sex education.

Yale Divinity Library
New Haven, Conn.

Another plan of the Family Life Movement Committee is the publication and sale of a poster-size scroll, to be hung on the wall of Christian homes.

At the first meeting of the committee...

It was decided to hold the next meeting...

The committee is now working on the...

It is hoped that the next meeting will...

March 15, 1951

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Framed by a picture of a lily, this scroll will list the six basic principles of a Christian home: family worship, Bible reading, happy home circle, working together, love toward neighbors and the practicing of all these doctrines. With each principle a Bible reading is quoted. This is an attempt to Christianize Japanese families and also to show what a Christian home should be.

"MISSION OF THE CHURCH" CONFERENCE FINDINGS DISCUSSED

The conclusions of the recent Kyodan conference on "The Mission of the Church" were explored, and Arrangements were made for implementing many of their specific recommendations of the recent Kyodan conference on The Mission of the Church at the Executive Committee meeting at Ito from Jan. 22-25. The District chairmen and 20 other conference leaders from all over Japan heard the report of the continuing committee which has been exploring the findings of the conference during the past few months. Lay Evangelism and Stewardship were given special attention during this 2 day session.

The fine spirit of unity and absence of any friction along former denominational lines which had characterized the conference last fall, continued to dominate the Executive Committee meeting held on the last 2 days of the program. The district chairman again joined the Executive Committee for the meetings, and every district in Japan was well represented.

NCC TO HOLD 7TH GENERAL ASSEMBLY MARCH 23-25

The 7th General Assembly of the NCC will meet from March 23-25 at the Ginza Church in Tokyo to hear reports of the past years activities and go over plans for the coming year. The second day of the meeting will be devoted to the Centenary Movement session and will be followed in the evening by a special mass meeting at Kyoritsu Public Hall. Dr. Kagawa, and Dr. Brunner will speak at the meeting, which will open to the general public.

The cornerstone for the new AVACO building on the Aoyama Gakuin campus will be officially laid at a ceremony on March 24, and all the delegates to the meeting will be invited.

CHRISTIAN LITERATURE COMMISSION HOLDS BOARD MEETING

The 5th meeting of the Board of the NCC Literature Commission held on Jan. 25. Included on the agenda were the following: Approval of the new constitution of the magazine "New Age"; Approval of the budget (revised) for 1954; a decision to turn over complete publication of the monthly magazine "Church Education" to the Church School Department as of the first of April. (This monthly magazine for SS teachers has been published jointly by two departments).

The "Christian Handbook on Communism" is now available in Japanese, the Literature Department also announces.

2ND NOVEL CONTEST WINNERS ANNOUNCED

A teacher, a minister and the wife of a government office were the first 3 prize winners in the second novel writing contest sponsored by the NCC Literature Dept. Chosen from a group of 76, their novels received prizes of 20,000, 10,000 and 5,000 yen respectively. The first prize winner, Miss Nobuko Kaibara, teachers in Himeji and is a member of Himeji Wako Church. Her novel was entitled "Grass & Flower". Dr. Kazuya Fuji, Kyodan minister on Fukushima, won the second prize with his novel "By the River Yodo". He also won second prize in last year's contest. The third prize winner "Life

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"History of an Old Man" was written by Mrs. Nobuko Kato, wife of a government officer in Ehime Prefecture. Mrs. Kato also teaches dress making and is a member of Matsuyama Church.

BIBLE SOCIETY COLLECTING SIGNATURES FOR "GOOD WILL" AUTOGRAPH BOOK

"Good Will Autograph Books" will be presented from countries all over the world at the 150th anniversary celebration of the Bible Society in London on May 7. The Japan Bible Society hopes to collect 5,000 signatures in its Autograph Book, and has started with that of Prime Minister Yoshida. The "fee" for signing will be a 300 yen contribution to the JBS. About 15% of the total receipts will be sent to the English Bible Society as an anniversary present, and the rest will be used by the society here in Japan. Mr. Miyakoda, general secretary of the JBS, and Mr. Motoo Sakata, a Christian businessman who is a JBS trustee, will attend the London meeting as representatives of the JBS and will present the Autograph Book along with those of the 23 other countries which have Bible Societys.

FRIENDSHIP HOME FOR US SERVICEMEN PLANNED FOR TACHIKAWA AREA

Following the notable success of the "Friendship Home for Servicemen" at Kure during the past year, plans are being made to start another center in Tachikawa. A local commission of pastors has been organized by the NCC and will begin work on March 18. The Tachikawa local commission will sponsor the work, of which Chuhachi Eguchi, pastor of Tachikawa Kyodan Church is chairman. At present the commission will operate from an office in the Tachikawa church but it is hoped that a building will be found later to serve as a center for the project. In the meantime, the commission will work with the army chaplains to plan activities in which the US security forces and the people of the area can become better acquainted. They will provide an outlet for servicemen who wish to help in community projects, and will help form groups of interested men to attend various Japanese churches for tea ceremony and doll festival programs, and other activities.

UCMS WOMEN'S WORK SECRETARY IN TOKYO

Miss Belva Dreese, secretary for women's work for the Disciples of Christ, is in Japan for a months study of the work here. Following this, she will proceed to the Philippines where she will help advise the womens department of the evangelical church there.

